

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 3308 - SB 3362

February 21, 2012

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to undertake a study of mercury levels present in state rivers and streams. Requires the utilization of existing funds and data to identify rivers and stream containing levels of mercury in excess of the standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency. Requires TDEC to present the findings of the study to the General Assembly by January 1, 2013.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures –

\$6,100/One-Time/General Fund

\$6,100/One-Time/Environmental Protection Fund

Assumptions:

- According to TDEC, contracting this project to an outside engineer or university would cost between \$25,000 and \$35,000.
- Directing an agency to use existing resources to perform a new function does not eliminate the fiscal impact of performing the new function since a new function that has a cost will reduce the agency's reversion or will require creation of additional positions to perform duties of staff that have been redirected to the new function.
- According to TDEC, the Division of Water Pollution Control will use existing staff and existing data as required to meet the January 1, 2013 deadline. However staff will be diverted from other required projects. Additional temporary resources equivalent to one employee working for two months will be required to complete the study. This one-time increase in state expenditures is estimated to be \$12,144.
- Water Pollution Control expenditures are paid 50 percent from the General Fund and 50 percent from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). One-time state expenditures from the General Fund of \$6,072 and from the EPF of \$6,072.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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